

Applic. No. 10/701,836
Amdt. dated December 29, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

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Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 to 18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (currently amended): A support, comprising:

a support part having a top side and an underside and defining
at least one locating hole having a hole edge and a hole
diameter; and

a fixing pin captively disposed in said at least one hole,
said fixing pin having:

a bottom insertion section;

an inside, an outside, and a circumferential diameter;

a center shank section; and

Applic. No. 10/701,836

Amdt. dated December 29, 2006

Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

a top retaining section defining a plurality of elastic
retaining teeth of different lengths, said teeth
including:

~~at least one~~ a plurality of relatively long
retaining ~~teeth~~ teeth overlapping said hole edge of
said locating hole at said top side, said long
retaining teeth being bent at least slightly
outward; and

~~at least one~~ a plurality of short retaining ~~teeth~~
teeth undercutting said hole edge at said underside,
said short retaining teeth being bent at least
slightly outward and each having a respective free
end; and

said circumferential diameter at said free ends
being greater than said hole diameter of said
locating hole.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The support according to claim
19, wherein said long retaining ~~teeth has an~~ teeth each have a
respective end and ~~is~~ are angled outward at said end.

Applic. No. 10/701,836

Amdt. dated December 29, 2006

Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The support according to claim 19, wherein said short retaining tooth has an end and is angled at said end in a manner selected from one of the group consisting of outward and inward.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The support according to claim 20, wherein said short retaining ~~tooth has an~~ teeth each have a respective end and ~~is~~ are angled at said end in a manner selected from one of the group consisting of outward and inward.

Claims 23-26 (cancelled).

Claim 27 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said fixing pin has a cylindrical shank section extending between said retaining section and said insertion section.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said center shank section is a cylindrical shank section extending between said retaining section and said insertion section.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said insertion section is elastic.

Applic. No. 10/701,836
Amdt. dated December 29, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

Claim 30 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said insertion section is recessed over a sectional length by a formation of push-in arms.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said insertion section has push-in arms defined by recesses.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said insertion section has an end and push-in arms at said end defined by recesses extending from said end toward said center shank section.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said insertion section has an end and a bevel directed inward at said end.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said fixing pin has pin diameter, a circumference, and at least one prominence on said circumference enlarging said pin diameter.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said fixing pin is a one-piece sleeve.

Applic. No. 10/701,836

Amdt. dated December 29, 2006

Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

Claim 36 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said fixing pin has an axial direction and a continuous longitudinal slot running in said axial direction.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The support according to claim 19, wherein said fixing pin is held in said locating hole with at least one of a radial clearance and an axial clearance.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The support according to claim 36, wherein said long retaining teeth are angled outward to bear against said hole edge of said locating hole when inserted therein.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The support according to claim 38, wherein said fixing pin is centered in said locating hole.

Claim 40 (currently amended): In a support part having a top side and an underside and defining at least one locating hole having a hole edge and a hole diameter, a support connector, comprising:

Applic. No. 10/701,836

Amdt. dated December 29, 2006

Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

a fixing pin captively disposed in the at least one hole and having:

a bottom insertion section;

an inside, an outside, and a circumferential diameter;

a center shank section; and

a top retaining section defining a plurality of elastic retaining teeth of different lengths, said teeth including:

~~at least one~~ a plurality of relatively long retaining ~~teeth~~ teeth overlapping said hole edge of said locating hole at said top side, said long retaining teeth being bent at least slightly outward; and

~~at least one~~ a plurality of short retaining ~~teeth~~ teeth undercutting said hole edge at said underside, said short retaining teeth being bent at least slightly outward and each having a respective free end; and

Applic. No. 10/701,836

Amdt. dated December 29, 2006

Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

said circumferential diameter at said free ends
being greater than the hole diameter of the locating
hole.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A fixing pin for at least one of positioning and retaining a support part on a mounting part, the support part having a topside and an underside and defining at least one locating hole having a hole diameter and a hole edge and the mounting part defining a hole, the fixing pin comprising:

a pin body having:

a circumferential diameter;

a top retaining section having a plurality of retaining teeth of different lengths for accommodating the hole edge of the locating hole of the support part between said teeth, said teeth including:

a plurality of relatively long retaining teeth
overlapping the hole edge of the locating hole at
the top side, said long retaining teeth being bent
at least slightly outward;

Applic. No. 10/701,836

Amdt. dated December 29, 2006

Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

a plurality of short retaining teeth undercutting
the hole edge at the underside, said short retaining
teeth being bent at least slightly outward and each
having a respective free end; and

said circumferential diameter at said free ends
being greater than said hole diameter of said
locating hole;

a bottom insertion section; and

a center shank section to be inserted into the hole of
the mounting part via said insertion section and,
thereby, produce a push-in connection between the support
part and the mounting part.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The fixing pin according to
claim 41, wherein the support part is a gasket, and the
mounting part is a cylinder head of a piston engine.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The fixing pin according to claim 41,
wherein:

said plurality of retaining teeth include relatively long
retaining teeth and relatively short retaining teeth;

Applic. No. 10/701,836
Amdt. dated December 29, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

said long retaining teeth have integrally formed lugs; and

at least one of said long retaining teeth and said lugs form a
virtually closed ring.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A fixing pin for at least one
of positioning and retaining a gasket on a cylinder head of a
piston engine, the gasket having a topside and an underside
and defining at least one locating hole having a hole diameter
and a hole edge and the cylinder head defining a hole, the
fixing pin comprising:

a pin body having:

a circumferential diameter;

a top retaining section having a plurality of retaining
teeth of different lengths for accommodating the hole
edge of the locating hole of the gasket between said
teeth, said teeth including:

a plurality of relatively long retaining teeth
overlapping the hole edge of the locating hole at

Applic. No. 10/701,836

Amdt. dated December 29, 2006

Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

the top side, said long retaining teeth being bent
at least slightly outward;

a plurality of short retaining teeth undercutting
the hole edge at the underside, said short retaining
teeth being bent at least slightly outward and each
having a respective free end; and

said circumferential diameter at said free ends
being greater than said hole diameter of said
locating hole;

a bottom insertion section; and

a center shank section to be inserted into the hole of
the mounting part via said insertion section and,
thereby, produce a push-in connection between the gasket
and the cylinder head.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The fixing pin according to claim 19,
wherein:

said at least one long retaining tooth is a plurality of long
retaining teeth; and

Applic. No. 10/701,836
Amdt. dated December 29, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 10, 2006

said long retaining teeth have integrally formed lugs, at least one of said long retaining teeth and said lugs forming a virtually closed ring.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): The fixing pin according to claim 44, wherein:

said plurality of retaining teeth include relatively long retaining teeth and relatively short retaining teeth;

said long retaining teeth have integrally formed lugs; and

at least one of said long retaining teeth and said lugs form a virtually closed ring.